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Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 28 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter from the Greek Cypriot representative dated 7 April 2016 (A/70/825-S/2016/329), I would like to bring to your attention the following considerations.

First, I would like to emphasize that, as the country with the longest continental coastline in the eastern Mediterranean, Turkey has registered with the United Nations (Turkish notes verbales No. 2004/Turkuno DT/4739, dated 2 March 2004, and No. 2013/14136816/22273, dated 12 March 2013) that it has ipso facto and ab initio legal and sovereign rights in the maritime areas of the eastern Mediterranean that are west of meridian 32°16'18"E. It is Turkey's well-considered position that the outer limits of the Turkish continental shelf in the above-mentioned maritime areas follow the median line between the Turkish and Egyptian coastlines. The western terminal point of the median line will be determined in accordance with the outcome of future delimitation agreements in the Aegean Sea and in the Mediterranean among all States concerned, taking into account all relevant and special circumstances.

Accordingly, Turkey, in written form, raised her objections to and her non-recognition of the agreement between the Greek Cypriot Administration and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the "delimitation of the exclusive economic zone" of 17 February 2003.

I would like to reiterate that several of the so-called hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation licence areas declared by the Greek Cypriots partly remain within Turkey's continental shelf. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that, in the latest round of the "international tender" mentioned in the aforementioned letter, one of the tendered areas lies directly on the Turkish continental shelf.

I would furthermore like to remind you that the views of the representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the allegations of the Greek Cypriot

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Administration in the context of oil/natural gas exploration and exploitation activities have already been circulated to the General Assembly, on 19 December 2014 (see A/69/675-S/2014/915) and 5 June 2014 (see A/68/902).

In the light of the foregoing, Turkey refutes all the allegations contained in the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 79 (a), and of the Security Council, and published in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative